



**Rear Admiral (Ret.) Edgar N. Duncan, B.S.Pharm.,  
M.S.Hyg., Ph.D.**

Rear Admiral (Ret.) Edgar N. Duncan was the first pharmacist promoted to the rank of Assistant Surgeon General, as well as the first African American commissioned as a pharmacist in the United States Public Health Service (USPHS). Also worthy of note is that he was the first African American Chief Pharmacist at a USPHS hospital. He served in USPHS in Staten Island, Chicago, and Washington, DC/Maryland, and also occupied prominent health and educational positions in New York, Newark, and Pittsburgh.

RADM Duncan graduated from Duquesne University School of Pharmacy, Magna Cum Laude, in 1954. He was the first African American student at Graduate School of Public Health (GSPH) in 1954 and the first graduate of the school to serve in its senior administration. In 1956 he received a Master of Science in Hygiene from the GSPH, and was later awarded a Ph.D. from the School of Education, University of Pittsburgh in 1990. As the Associate Dean of the GSPH, University of Pittsburgh, he pioneered the Public Health Career Opportunity Program for minority and disadvantaged students. The program became a prime conduit for minority enrollment at GSPH.

RADM Duncan has held positions in numerous professional and community organizations and has received many local and national honors. He is a member of the Parent/School/Community Council of the Millions Technology Academy in the Hill District of Pittsburgh. Some of his awards and honors have included: Duquesne University: 100 Distinguished Alumni, 1978; Pharmacy Distinguished Alumnus, 1974; Pharmacy Achievement Award, 1994; Pharmacy Distinguished Service Award, 1995; and Pharmacy School commencement speaker in 2003. RADM Duncan was one of 50 persons recognized as significant contributors to public health for the GSPH's 50th anniversary, 1999. He has also received the American Public Health Association's Distinguished Service Award in 1994 and the Hildrus A. Poindexter Distinguished Service Award in 1993.

RADM Duncan has kept, as a hallmark, the concept of service, in his professional and personal life which has been woven from threads from his families, teachers, religious guides, mentors, and colleagues. He completed Duquesne's Pharmacist Refresher Program in 2003 and is looking forward to once again providing pharmaceutical care, which he has done for nearly 30 years. RADM Duncan and his wife Lauraine live in Pittsburgh, PA, where they married 51 years ago. They have three sons: Eric, Conrad, and David.